Reduction of Central Government staff

361. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a decision has been taken to reduce the Central Government staff by cutting fresh recruitments by two-thirds;

(b) if so, the details of specific directives issued for the purpose and other fresh policy initiatives taken to reduce the surplus staff;

(c) the number of posts likely to be abolished annually through this reported "Restrictive" policy; and

(d) the results achieved so far by implementing other similar schemes announced earlier, like the VRS identifying the surplus staff as recommended by the Expenditure Reforms Committee (ERC), etc. and their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Pursuant to the announcement made by the Government, during the Budget Speech (2001-2002), Department of Persnnel and Training issued an Office Memorandum No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001, regarding optimization of Direct Recruitment to civilian posts. It has been laid down therein that Direct Recruitment should be limited to 1/3rd of the Direct Recruitment vacancies arising in a recruitment year, subject to a further ceiling of 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Ministry/Department.

Copy of the Department of Personnel and Training O.M. No. 2/8/ 2001-PIC, dated 16.5.2001 is enclosed as Statement. (See below).

(c) It is anticipated that approximately 3% of staff retire every year. If only one-third of direct Recruitment vacancies are filled per annum, and the balance two-third Direct Recruitment vacancies, are abolished, a 2% reduction of manpowr would be achieved per annum. Consequently a 10% reduction in sanctioned strength will take place in 5 years time. This may, however, vary depending on actual pattern of retirement every year.

(d) Based on Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC)'s

recommendations in respect of 36 Ministries/Departments, 23,900 posts were identified for abolition, out of which around 13,900 posts have since been abolished.

So far 37 surplus employees belonging to various Ministries/ Departments/Offices of the Government of India have availed themselves of the Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

Statement

Copy of Deptt. of Personnel & Training to Office Memorandum No. 2/8/ 2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001

Subject: Optimisation of direct recruitment to civilian posts.

The Finance Minister while presenting the Budget for 2001-2002 has stated that "all requirements of.recruitment will be scrutinised to ensure that fresh recruitment is limited to 1 per cent of total civilian staff strength. As about 3 per cent of staff retire every year, this will reduce the manpower by 2 per cent per annum achieving a reduction of 10 per cent in five years as announced by the Prime Minister".

1.2 The Expenditure Reforms Commission had also considered the issue and had recommended that each Ministry/Department may formulate annual Direct Recruitment Plans through the mechanism of Screening Committees.

2.1 All Ministries/Departments are accordingly requested to prepare Annual Direct Recruitment Plans covering the requirements of all cadres, whether managed by that Ministry/Department itself, or managed by the Department of Personnel & Training etc. The task of preparing the Annual Recruitment Plan will be undertaken in each Ministry/Department by a Screening Committee headed by the Secretary of that Ministry/ Department with the Financial Adviser as a Member and JS (Admn.) of the Department as Member Secretary. The Committee would also have one senior representative each of the Department of Personnel & Training and the Department of Expenditure. While the annual Recruitment Plans for vacancies in Groups 'B', 'C and 'D' could be cleared by this Committee itself, in the case of Group 'A' Services, the Annual Recruitment Plan would be clreared by a Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary with Secretary of the Department concerned, Secretary (DOPT) and Secretary (Expenditure) as Members.

2.2 While preparing the annual Recruitment Plans, the concerned Screening Committees would ensure that direct recruitment does not in any case exceed 1 % of the total sanctioned strength of the Department. Since about 3% of staff retire every year, this would translate into only 1/3rd of the direct recruitment vacancies occurring in each year being filled up. Accordingly, direct recruitment would be limited to 1/3rd of the direct recrutiment vacancies arising in the year subject to a further ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department. While examing the vacancies to be filled up, the functional needs of the organisation would be critically examined so that there is flexibility in filling up vacancies in various cadres depending upon their relative functional need. To amplify, in case an organisation needs certain posts to be filled up for safety/security/operational considerations, a corresponding reduction in direct recruitment in other cadres of the organisation may be done with a view to restricting the overall direct recruitment to one-third of vacancies meant for direct recruitment subject to the condition that the total vacancies proposed for filling up should be within the 1% ceiling.' The remaining vacancies meant for direct recruitment which are not cleard by the Screening Committees will not be filled up by promotion or otherwise and these posts will stand abolished.

2.3 While the Annual Recruitment Plan would have to be prepared immediately for vacancies anticipated in 2001 -02, the issue of filling up of direct recruitment vacancies existing on the date of issue of these orders, which are less than one year old and for which recruitment action has not yet been finalised, may also be critically reviewed by Ministries/ Departments and placed before the Screening Committees for action as at para 2.2. above.

2.4 The vacancies finally cleared by the Screening Committee will be filled up duly applying the rules for reservation, handicapped, compassionate quotas thereon. Further, administrative Ministries/ Departments/Units would obtain beforehand a No Objection Certificate from the Surplus Cell of the Department of Personnel & Training/Director General, Employment and Training that suitable personnel are not available for appointment against the posts meant for direct recruitment and only thereafter place indents for Direct Recruitment. Recruiting agencies would also not accept any indents which are not accompanied

by a certificate indicating that the same has been cleared by the concerned Screening Committee and that suitable personnel are not available with the Surplus Cell.

3. The other modes of recruitment (including that of 'promotion') prescribed in the Recruitment Rules/Service Rules would, however, continue to be adhered to as per the provisions of the notified Recruitment Rules/Service Rules.

4. The provisions of this Office Memorandum would be applicable to all Central Government Ministries/Departments/organisations including Ministry of Railways, Department of Posts, Department of Telcom, autonomous bodies-wnolly or partly financed by the Government, statutory corporations/bodies, civilians in Defence and non-combatised posts in Para Military Forces.

5. All Ministries/Departments are requested to circulate the orders to their attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies, etc. under their administrative control. Secretaries of administrative Ministries/ Departments may ensure that action based on these orders is taken immediately.

6. Hindi version will follow.

Sd/-(Harinder Singh) Joint
Secretary to the Govt, of India

To

1. All Ministries/Departments to the Government of India (as per standard distribution list)
2. Chairman, RRB, SSC, UPSC and C&AG.
3. All Financial Advisers (By name)

Pay parity of Government officials vis-a-vis private organisations

362. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pay and perks of Government officials in India is far below their counterparts in the established private organizations;